

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An endoscope, comprising:
a shaft extending along a longitudinal axis, having a distal end receivable in a hollow organ and a proximal end ends and defining a hollow channel therethrough, the shaft including a steering mechanism for moving the distal end of the shaft from a first position to a second position;
a first lens fixedly attached adjacent to the distal end of the shaft insertion tube for receiving a first image in a first direction, the first direction generally being forward and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shaft; and the first image generally being a circumferential view of the hollow organ;
a catheter receivable in the hollow channel of the shaft for extension and retraction therethrough; and
a second lens adjacent the distal end of the catheter and being receivable in the hollow channel of the shaft, the second lens movable in a second direction with respect to the first lens upon emerging from the hollow channel of the shaft and extending beyond the first lens so as to receive a second image in the -a second direction, the second direction being at a predetermined angle to the first direction generally 180 degree angle to the first direction and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shaft and the second image providing a generally circumferential view of the hollow organ;
wherein:
the first and second images define overlapping forward and rear images of the same hollow organ, the second image being dependent on the first image; and
the shaft is insertable into the hollow body organ under image guidance of the first image and the steering mechanism of the shaft.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 1, wherein the first and second lenses receive the first and second images simultaneously.

4-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 1, further comprising an actuator operatively connected to the catheter for moving the catheter independent of the shaft.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 1, wherein the second lens is operatively connected to an image processor.

13. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 1, further comprising a display screen for displaying the first and second images.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 1, wherein the catheter includes a distal tip and wherein the endoscope further comprises one or more illumination bulbs disposed on the distal tip of the catheter for illuminating an area adjacent to the second lens.

16. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 15, wherein the one or more ~~rear~~ illumination bulbs are operatively connected to a power source.

Claims 17-42 (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim ~~4~~10 wherein the catheter includes a distal tip and wherein ~~the endoscope and wherein~~ the actuator includes first and second wires operatively connected to the distal tip of the catheter, wherein tension on the first and second wires controls movement of the distal tip of the catheter, second image lens.

44. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 1-10 wherein the actuator actuation means for the catheter includes a comprises of bending structure disposed at a the distal end of the catheter; and wherein the bending structure urges the catheter in a second direction upon exit from the hollow channel of the shaft.

45-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) An endoscope system for examination of a hollow body component, comprising:

an endoscope having an outer periphery, a steering mechanism and a distal end fixedly housing a first image lens for receiving a first image images in a first direction, the endoscope defining a hollow channel therethrough, the first direction being generally forward of and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the distal end of the endoscope and the first image being generally a circumferential view of the hollow body component;

a catheter being reversibly received within the channel of the endoscope and having proximal proximate and distal ends; and

a rear view module adjacent the distal end of the catheter and including the a second image lens, at least of portion of the rear view module movable between a first position and a second direction position wherein the second image lens receives images in a second direction at an angle to the first direction, the second direction being at an angle of generally 180 degrees to the first direction while rear view module extends distally from the distal end of the endoscope and second image depicting a generally circumferential view of the hollow body component, ; and the first and second images representing a common field of view within the hollow body component; and

the endoscope is insertable into the hollow body component under the image guidance of the first image and the steering mechanism at an angle to the first direction.

48. (Withdrawn) The endoscope system of claim 47 wherein the angle is approximately 180 degrees.

49. (Previously Presented) The endoscope system of claim 47 further comprising an actuator for controlling movement of the rear view module between the first and second positions.

50. (Previously Presented) The endoscope system of claim 49 wherein the actuator includes first and second wires operatively connected to the second image lens, wherein tension on the first and second wires controls movement of the second image lens.

51-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) An endoscope, comprising:

a first lens for receiving a first image in a fixed first direction and the first image being a generally circumferential view of the first direction;

a shaft having a distal end for fixedly receiving the first lens therein, the shaft defining a hollow channel therethrough and having a steering mechanism to deflect the distal end in at least four perpendicular directions;

a second lens for receiving a second image in a second direction, the second direction being at an angle generally 180 degrees predetermined angle to the first direction; and the second image being a generally circumferential view of the second direction;

a catheter being reversibly received within the channel of the shaft and having proximal proximal and distal ends and a steering mechanism; and

a rear view module removably received in the hollow channel and housing the second lens and being operatively attached connected to the distal end of the catheter, the rear view module including a steering mechanism for moving the rear view module in the second direction upon exit from the hollow channel;

the shaft is insertable into the hollow channel under the image guidance of the first image and the steering mechanism of the shaft, independent of the steering mechanism of the catheter.

55. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 54 wherein at least of portion of the rear view module is movable between a first position and a second position upon emerging from the hollow channel of the shaft wherein the second image lens receives images in the second direction.

56. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 55 further comprising an actuator operatively connected to the distal end of the catheter for controlling movement of the rear view module.

57. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 56 wherein the actuator includes first and second wires operatively connected to the distal end of the catheter, wherein tension on the first and second wires controls movement of the second image lens.

58-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 54 wherein the second lens is operatively connected to an image processor.

62. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 54 further comprising a display screen operatively connected to the first and second lenses for displaying the first and second images.

63. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 54 further comprising an eyepiece operatively connected to the first and second lenses for viewing the first and second images.

64. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 54 further comprising one or more rear illumination bulbs for illuminating an area adjacent the second lens.

65. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 64 wherein the one or more rear illumination bulbs are operatively connected to a power source.

66. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 54 wherein the rear view module is urged into the second position upon emergence from the hollow channel of the shaft by a flexible member disposed in the rear view module predetermined angle is approximately 180 degrees.

67. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 1 wherein the actuator includes a bending structure disposed in at the distal end of the catheter and wherein the bending structure urges the catheter into second direction upon exit from the hollow channel of the shaft.